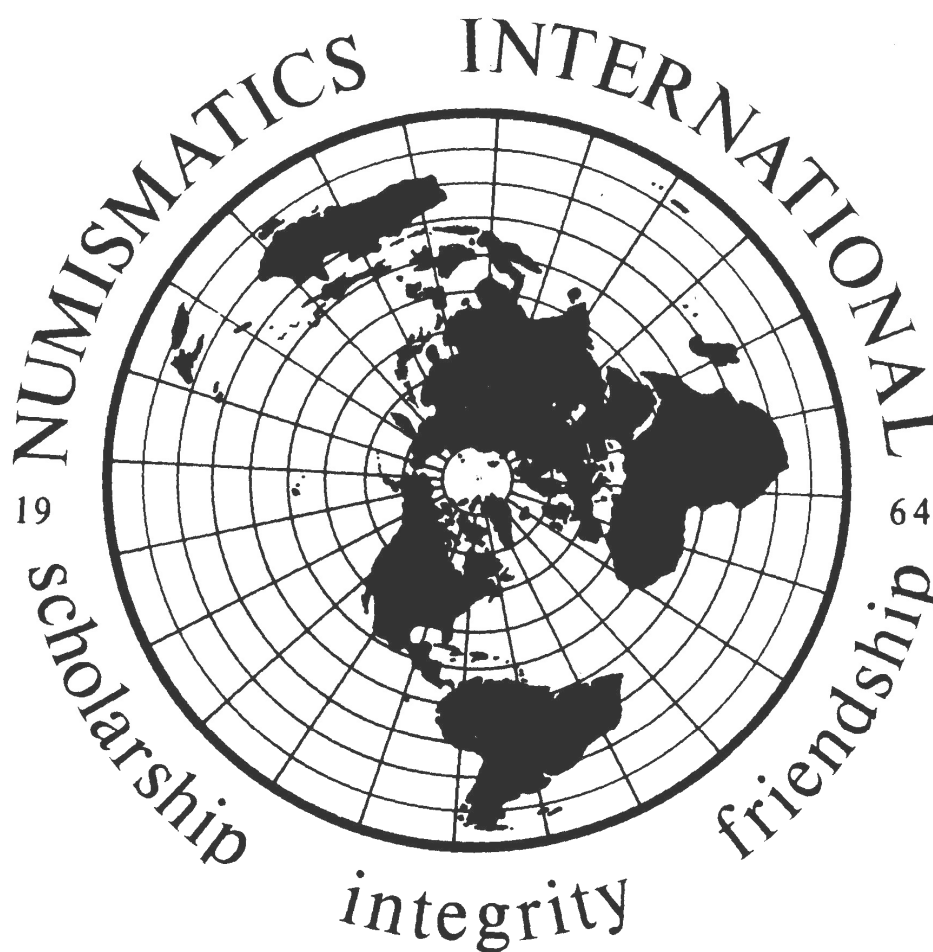


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Membership Report

The following persons have applied for membership. Unless objections in writing are received by August 1, 2006 the memberships are effective that day (this notice mailed in June).

- 2680-MT Jack Lloyd (British, Mexican and ancient coins).
2681-MT Ronald Berg, 321 Park St., North Reading, MA 01864
(Canada and Central America).
2682-MT Stephen Harvey, PO Box 3778, Beverly Hills, CA 90212



Additions and Corrections

To Volume 41 No. 4, April 2006

Joseph Uphoff offers the following addition to his article *Examples of Nimbus on Byzantine Coins* "It seems I forgot to give the Seaby numbers illustrating a few of the tables in my recent article on the Byzantine nimbus. They are as follows: Table 5: SB 1778, Table 7: 1871 and Table 12: 2475."

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Charms

Luke Roberts

In the East, where they originated, cash coins were sometimes used as charms and clothing decorations, but people began manufacturing coin shaped charms from very early on. The charms often have interesting words and images, and learning what they mean is frequently very difficult but also rewarding. Sometimes the intent is for such a piece to be a talisman, a lucky charm. Sometimes it has other uses—as a teaching device, or a mnemonic device. Some were used as toys for children. One such piece in Japan was an early form of the Hawaiian "pog," called "menko."

May the fragrance of the rice field increase ten-thousand fold!



Figure 1
Diameter 24mm, thickness 1.3mm

Figure 1 is an interesting charm which I found recently. I call it my farm charm. It is probably Chinese and its characters mean something like "may the fragrance of the rice field increase ten-thousand fold!" This seems to reflect a wish for good crops. What I can't figure out is the meaning of the animal picture on the back. It looks to be a deer, but deer and farmers are natural enemies. Deer destroy the rice crops and farmers scare away or kill deer. Any ideas about why this charm is the way it is? One person has suggested to me that deer traditionally have been a symbol of good crops by virtue of the fact that when chased away the crops do well. Another person emailed me saying that in Chinese the word for deer (lu) is a homonym for the *lu* meaning wealth and prosperity, and therefore is a felicitous symbol indicating wealth. The field character may be indicating rice and therefore prosperity. The notion of an actual deer ruining the fields may not be part of the intended idea of the charm at all.



Figure 2
Diameter 31mm, thickness 1.5mm

Figure 2 shows another copper alloy Chinese charm which I like. I think of it as the prettiest coin I own. The legend states that the horse is a great horse from the classical past, Qu Huang, one of the 8 great horses of the Zhou dynasty king Mu Wang. The

horse prancing on the reverse certainly is special. A very interesting thing about this charm which I do not understand is that the owner of the charm has filed indentations into the outside rim. Maybe it was decoration, maybe to count.



Figure 3
Diameter 24mm, thickness 1mm

Coin collectors often like to have coins in pristine condition, coins which have not seen much use. However, Figure 3 is one of my favorites for just the opposite reason. It has been rubbed and handled until the top broke off and the images are largely worn away. The words refer to achieving a high rank on the Chinese civil service exam. I can imagine some fervent student handling this coin all the way to success. I bought this for 50 yen in Japan after seeing it in an old pile of coins in an antique shop, and when I showed it to my friends at lunch they each inspected it and, without thinking, began rubbing it.



Figure 4
Diameter 24mm, thickness 1mm

Figure 4 is a Japanese charm, called a *hidari koma*, which means "pony going left." It has no words but is a humorous view of a man and his packhorse. Somehow the man seems to be losing.

There is the possibility that what I describe as a man is a monkey. Monkey and horse coins are also quite common. A complicated system of beliefs about the various animals' relations to the five elements of earth, fire, wood, water and metal makes such coins protection for a horse's health.



Figure 5
Diameter 25.5mm, thickness 1mm

Figure 5 is another *hidari koma* but it was made by directly carving the image into a Kan'ei Tsuuhou coin. The original coin is probably a type from around 1714 called a "shukuji haibun muhai" a later version of the 1660's "bunsen" which had no bun character on the back, but I am not sure.

This was found in Java, and the carving of the coin into a charm is likely to have been done in Java (I have seen another Kan'ei tsuuhou similarly carved with two Javanese dancer images). It was improperly cleaned with an abrasive, which makes it look very new but the corrosion in the bridle and the lines of the rear right leg etc. suggests that the carving is not that recent.



Figure 6
Diameter 24.5mm, thickness 1mm

Figure 7
Diameter 26.5mm, thickness 1.2mm

Figure 6 is another Japanese charm. It has two foxes, which represent the god Inari, standing before a plate of jewels or *tama*. The *tama* refers to both the spirit of Inari itself, and also to the worldly benefits, such as wealth, which Inari has to offer. The symbol on the bottom is a traditional warehouse key, in this case the key to unlock the treasure house of Inari. Perhaps some Inari believers carried this coin in their purse hoping for wealth to accumulate.

Figure 7 is another Japanese fox charm. The words between them on the front say "Fushimi" in reference to the largest Inari shrine, south of Kyoto. On the back it says "raising the kingpost" which refers to beginning construction on a building. Around the outer rim on the reverse it says, "Happiness in all the more than 60 provinces of Japan." This may have been a gift of the shrine to people who contributed money to rebuilding a shrine building, but I am not sure.



Figure 8
Diameter 45mm, thickness 2.1mm

"Charm" is a catchall term for coin shaped items which were not official (or counterfeit) money. However we should not believe that they were necessarily considered magical or lucky. The next piece, Figure 8, was probably a mnemonic coin. It has the 8 cardinal directions and associated I-ching symbols on one side, and on the other the 12 animal zodiac in both picture and character.



Figure 9

I got the charm illustrated as Figure 9 because of its beauty, but I had no idea what it meant. There used to be an excellent coin museum in Japan, the Hosenska, which is unfortunately now closed. I sent them an email and they answered something like the following: This charm probably comes from Ming era China. The characters refer to something, probably wealth, increasing ten thousand fold each day. The reverse side picture is very complex. It pictures a scale. On the left side is the character for "intention" or "mind" in a circle. On the right side is an image which traditionally means heart. Perhaps the meaning is that for wealth to increase mind and heart must be in balance. The mind is helped by the empty square hole in the center which seems attached to the scale. What does it refer to? Below it the fingernail shaped object represents the moon. Its positioning is perhaps to balance the "sun" character on the top front. Perhaps this coin was used by a monk while teaching a parishioner.



Figure 10: Large Ebisu Daikoku charm
Diameter 39mm, thickness 1.5mm

Figure 10 is a larger Japanese charm representing the popular gods Ebisu and Daikoku. Ebisu is a god of fishermen folk and commerce, and Daikoku is a god of commerce. Ebisu holds a fishing pole with a freshly caught sea bream, and Daikoku always is sitting on large bales of rice. In this picture they have three bags of money sitting in front of them as well. The three beehive shaped things at the top are the "tama" (as in the Inari charm above) representing the spirit of the gods as well as wealth. On the back side is written top to bottom "three tama" and right to left "two gods." Around the center hole is what looks like a squiggly design. It is actually the character for "fuku" meaning "wealth and good fortune" but with the center missing where the hole is. This may involve a punlike reference to the popular incantation "fuku wa uchi" or "wealth is inside (the home)." This piece was probably made in the last half-century.



Figure 11 Ebisu and Daikoku small coin
Diameter 24mm, thickness 1.5mm

Here is another Ebisu and Daikoku charm from Japan. This one is small, about the size of a one mon coin. It is very interesting because the Ebisu and the Daikoku are in high relief. Their bellies stick out a full millimeter from the coin and have been worn severely through long usage. The front has Daikoku on the left, holding his hammer which brings wealth in his right hand and standing on two bales of rice. Ebisu is on the right with a fishing pole. The front words say "fukutoku" which means wealth and righteousness but the righteousness (toku) is also a pun for "profit" which is probably more to the point with these gods. The reverse has written "kotobuki" which means "felicitations". This coin seems to be of very high quality manufacture, but I cannot decide whether it is cast or some other form of metalwork. It may be carved. The coin has green verdigris in places, and a brown material (most visible on the reverse) seems to be a coating, perhaps lacquer, put on the recessed parts of the coin to make the relief images stand out more.

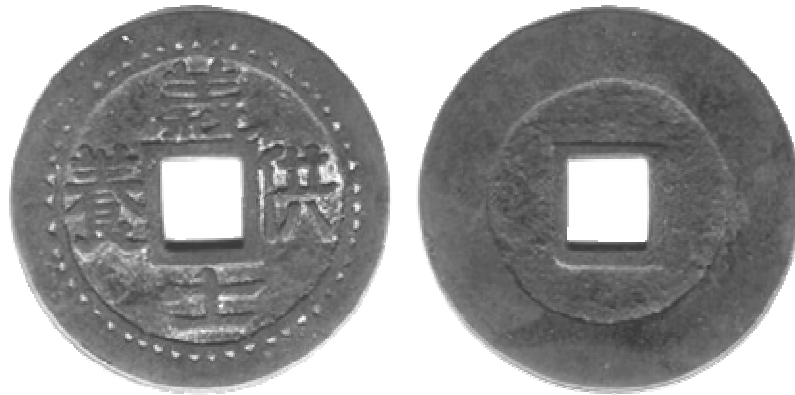


Figure 12 Gishi Kuyou
Diameter 39.3mm, thickness 2.5 mm

Figure 12 is a charm with the words written Gishi Kuyou which means something like "Offerings to the Spirits of the Righteous Warriors." A Japanese friend tells me that this is probably a Meiji era souvenir of Minatogawa Shrine, which is near Kobe. The term Gishi, or "righteous warriors," refers mainly to warriors who fought in the imperial cause, such as Kusunoki Masashige, who fought and lost a famous battle at Minatogawa in 1336, or the Ako samurai, the famous 47 ronin, who in 1701 avenged their lord's death by killing the man who had insulted him and escaped punishment. This latter crew came to be reenvisioned in the late Edo and the Meiji periods as imperial loyalists as well. Mizoguchi's great 1942 film about the Ako samurai includes the silliest episodes emphasizing the imperial loyalty of the 47 samurai. This was of course because of the intensification of modern, by which I mean post-1868, imperial loyalty, used as one of the ideological foundations of the war effort. Another knowledgeable friend tells me that this coin looks to be more modern than Meiji, perhaps even post WWII. Anyhow, although I am not fond of the calligraphy, this coin is a lovely object because of its rich texture and color, and interesting for the row of triangular dots around the rim.



Figure 13
Diameter 51.2mm, thickness 2.5 mm

The design in Figure 13 is that of a well known Song Dynasty charm (Schloth no. 74), but many later versions exist. This piece is worn and I have no idea of the age. On the front are pictured the two sage kings Yao and Shun seated on the left and right of the center hole. Below are the turtle and crane of longevity, and above is the North Star Constellation and something else like a cloud which I cannot recognize. On the back are the twelve zodiac animals and the Chinese characters referring to them.

NI

Personalities on Coins of Africa and Asia

Mahmoud Mohktar
Howard Ford NI #LM90



Egypt 5 Pound 1984 KM565

Mahmoud Mokhtar, undoubtedly Egypt's most famous sculptor of the twentieth century, is shown on a 5 Pound silver commemorative dated 1984. Like the novelist Naguib Mahfouz, who is discussed elsewhere in this edition, Mohktar was hoping that his country would join the modern world, becoming more intellectual and scientific, less superstitious and fundamentalist. One of his most famous sculptures, called *The Reawakening of Egypt*, shows a peasant woman standing beside the Sphinx. Commentators mention that the Sphinx of Mahmoud is different from the ancient carving and represents a new Egypt, but they should not overlook something else which is new. The peasant woman is lifting her veil. There is really the new Egypt.

Mohktar died a bitter man. He had been commissioned to create a large sculpture for the Egyptian government; but there was a regime change, and the new regime refused to pay Mohktar for his work. The sum owed to Mohktar was £E8,000 (Egyptian Pounds), a considerable sum of money in the Egypt of the 1930's. Mohktar died in 1934 (Samir Raafat, "Said Zaghoul Pasha," *Cairo Times*, June 21, 2001).

NI

Cape to Cairo
The Record of an Historic Motor Journey by Stella Court Treatt
Selected excerpts submitted by Roger DeWardt Lane NI #815

This book is an intriguing tale of a young English couple and two English gentlemen, eighty years ago, on a pioneering road trip with two trucks from Cape Town, South Africa to Cairo, Egypt, exploring all through the British territory. Big game hunting seems to have been another reason, along with photography, for the trip, as there are stories of lions, leopards and elephants throughout. The excerpts are limited to explanations of money encountered on the journey—RDL.

Pages 116-7: "He had to arrange about shooting licenses, since in Northern Rhodesia (c. 1925) we should have to live largely on what we shot, and also about picking up of money. He arranged to draw upon one official farther north to the sum of one hundred and ninety pounds. This sum was to be paid in paper money, and a certain part – for paying the natives – in ‘tickles’ (threepenny bits).¹ To his horror, when we arrived at this station, the whole amount was dished out in half-crowns."



British Three-pence –1887



British Half Crown – 1914

"It nearly required another car to carry the weight; of course a half-crown as a means of paying hundreds of natives is practically useless anyway. It would be too extravagant, and we were reminded of the story current in this district of the Scotsman who had to pay his boys half-a-crown a month, and who one month paid them in florins instead. To this day the natives call a florin a ‘scottisman’."



British Florin – Two Shillings – 1902



British Penny 1922

Pages 134-5: "We were fortunate in this country between Broken Hill and Abercorn in getting lots of natives to help us (repair the bridges). It delayed us for hours, of course, to scout out into the bush in search of villages, but eventually we always got boys to chop trees, for which we paid them fourpence a day – the regulation pay – and later on, when all our threepenny-pieces and pennies were gone, we gave them sixpence. The chief usually got from three to five shillings according to the amount of work done."

Pages 146-7: "We had traveled south to Nyassa...living was very cheap. We could buy about four-dozen eggs for a shilling² and chickens were about threepence each. We were able to get fruit, of which we stood in great need. There were big baskets of oranges and bananas, all for the price of a few cents.³ We bought some ivory bangles at Nyassa. The natives discovered that we were interested, and they brought wonderful specimens, some of which were two inches wide, the price varying from six to sixteen shillings each."

It is easy to see why the East Africa One Cent copper coins had a hole in the center, when you realize that the natives, who used them, had no pockets. Therefore they must have had to string them, much like the Chinese—RDL.



East Africa Shilling – 1925



East Africa One Cent – 1924

Pages 167-8: "Nairobi is a queer, fascinating town with an 'atmosphere' hard to describe. It is European enough with its hotels and houses, but just when you begin to believe that it is a very new and flourishing little European town you are brought up

suddenly with a feeling that you *must* be in the East. It has one important main street in which stand, side by side, a little modiste shop, with smart hats and gowns displayed in the windows, a chemist's shop, a bank, and a tool or bicycle shop. Round the corner, a few paces to the left, is the Indian Bazaar – a short street belonging entirely to the East, where there are Indian tailors who run up a suite for you in a day, and stores in which can be bought anything from lovely silks and ivory down to a bootlace.

There are cars on the streets, hundreds of cars, driven by bronzed girls and men in big *terai* hats. A flash of bright wheels goes by and you see a rickshaw pass with a girl in a pretty summer frock sitting inside, drawn along to the various shops by a grinning black boy.

In front of the shops and on the steps of the bank may be seen groups of jolly-looking people – coffee-planters, perhaps – chatting to each other about things in general – rifles, coffee, and cotton in particular.

When we were ready to leave...people said: 'You'll never get through the swamps farther north, but good luck to you!' We got a lot of money changed into small coins, and off we sped along the glorious roads of Kenya...and Uganda."

Page 227: "Men, women, and children (of Khartoum) followed us about offering their wares of fans – black circular Sudanese fans – ivory, leather bags, beads and silks, scents and amber, all 'ver' cheap', and if we had given them more than five rupees⁴ when they asked for ten they would have considered us poor fools indeed."



British India Rupee –1904

When searching the book for references to money I read details of the trip. It was so interesting that I went back to the beginning to read the first few chapters, which I had skipped past. The more I read, the more engaging the adventures became, I could hardly put the book down until the final chapter, arriving in Cairo Egypt, met by officials and waving crowds of thousands—RDL.

Coin images and commentary associated with these brief excerpts were supplied by Roger deWardt Lane. *Cape to Cairo, The Record of a Historic Motor Journey* by Stella Court Treatt. 1927, Boston, Little, Brown and Company.

¹ A Maundy three-pence is illustrated, the same reverse design as the circulating regular 3p issued until 1927.

² The East African 1 Shilling types had a reverse design which was the work of George William De Saulles. This design has, as one of its main features, a rather life-like lion. Behind the lion and adding to the realism of the design, there is the distant view of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak. Arching over the lion/mountain scene is a stylized flower and above this the words "EAST AFRICA."

³ Cent, East African coinage = 100th part of a shilling.

⁴ Coinage in use in Sudan at the time was the British Indian Rupee.

NI

Identifying India Native States
Rajkot
Howard Ford NI #LM90

We thought that many of you might be unfamiliar with one of India's prettiest gold coins, a Mohur from Rajkot dated 1945, which had a total original mintage of only 54 pieces. In addition, 1000 restrikes have been made, and they have created the opportunity for some of us to own the type. Both the originals and the restrikes are catalogued as KM #M1.



Enlarged approximately 1.5 × actual size

On one side the coin displays the word "RAJKOT," but you might never have heard of Rajkot and could be uncertain what the word is referring to. The other side makes it clear: it says "RAJKOT STATE." There was such a state in the 20th Century, existing as the Krause-Mishler tells us, until 1948, under the rule of Dharmendra Singhji.

Both sides of the coin are very attractive. The obverse shows a Sunrise appearing over the horizon, its rays spreading high and wide. The reverse shows the arms of Rajkot: a Deer above a Crescent Moon with a Trident at each side.

Silver Mohurs with the same designs, KM #M1a, also exist. The KM catalog now says that these have been made in comparatively recent years for collectors and are no longer considered legitimate issues by some authorities.

NI

Personalities on Coins of Africa and Asia
Egypt's Naguib Mahfouz
Howard Ford NI #LM90

Egypt has twice recognized its leading writer of short stories and novels by placing his portrait on commemorative coins. A 5 Pound silver coin in 1988 honored him for winning the Nobel Prize for Literature earlier that year. Only four years later, in 1992, another 5 Pound silver piece celebrated his literary accomplishments once again.



Egypt 5 Pound 1992 KM662

He was not only the first Egyptian writer to win the Nobel Prize, he was the first Arab writer ever to win it. For many Egyptians he is a national treasure. For other Egyptians, he is considerably less than that. He is a target for assassination. At least one of his works has been banned in his own country. An attempt on his life was made by Islamic extremists in 1994, after some harsh words by one Arab theologian linked Mahfouz with another writer, against whom a call for assassination, a *fatwa*, had been issued. They stabbed the aged writer in the neck with a knife, but he survived; his attackers were executed in 1995. Mahfouz was given a permanent bodyguard after the stabbing.

The subject Mahfouz writes about is the life of Egypt, but he is critical of many of the faults of the people of Egypt and the rest of the Arab world. He has questioned a number of things about the religion of Islam. Specifically, he criticizes his people for being centuries behind the rest of the world in many of their attitudes and beliefs. Few Westerners could say that and be listened to, but Mahfouz writes from inside the very world he criticizes. When Europe and America entered the twentieth century, so much of the Moslem world remained in the nineteenth—or was it the sixteenth—or the twelfth?

Both of the commemorative coins for Mahfouz show him wearing thick glasses. Even in the 1990s, he was virtually blind.

Before I retired from university teaching some two years ago, it was my pleasure to try to acquaint my students with some of the short fiction of Mahfouz. The fact that his works are included in textbooks prepared specifically for use in the United States indicates how large his reputation has become.

NI

Cartagena of the Indies, Real (1625)
Herman Blanton NI #LM115



Obverse: Early style Habsburg shield with small escutcheon of Portugal superimposed on the arms of Castile and Leon. Mint mark "RN" is to left of the shield, clear N and small portion of R is visible. Denomination "I" to right of shield, assayer "H" to right of shield, beneath the denomination. **Reverse:** Arms of Castile & Leon, arranged in a cross. Mass 3.408 grams.

This very interesting coin is classified as a Cartagena mint issue by both Jorge Restrepo, and Joe Lasser in their respective books on Colombian cob coins, *Macuquinas de Colombia* and *The Cob Coinage of Colombia*. The diagnostics on this coin for attribution are: RN mintmark, associated with Cartagena; no pomegranate which is consistent with Cartagena issues; small shield of Portugal superimposed on upper part of the Habsburg shield, in the new world, as used on the first issues (1621/2) at Cartagena. With the exception of a few Mexico pieces,¹ the Portuguese shield was not used at any new world mints except Cartagena. Assayer H is unknown on any other type Colombian coin.

To our knowledge there are six specimens of this coin, all are accounted for and all are illustrated. One of the six is illustrated here, and the remaining five are illustrated by Nesmith.² Both Restrepo and Lasser illustrate some of the same pieces that Nesmith did.

What are the Nesmith coins? The coins were located in Medellín, Colombia, in the middle part of the 20th century by well known numismatist Clyde Hubbard. The coins were in Robert Nesmith's article "A Hoard of the First Silver Coins of Nuevo Reino de Granada (Colombia)" published in the *Centennial Publication of the American Numismatic Society* in 1958. The hoard consisted of 46 coins, all silver, many previously unknown. In the last half century, numismatic research has confirmed many of these coins as being products of Colombian mints. Nesmith had speculated that some of the coins had been made in Cartagena, which has since been confirmed by archival evidence in Spanish documents published by Juan Friede.³ Since publication in 1958, not one of the 46 coins has been re-classified to a non-Colombian mint this speaks well of Nesmith's work. The hoard stands as the first significant discovery of Colombian silver cobs and is extremely important for research purposes.

In the hoard there are four pieces of assayer H one reales. Nesmith commented that the mintmark RN is the reverse of the typical NR mintmark and might not designate Nuevo Reino (Santa Fe de Bogotá), and the current numismatic opinion is that he was right: they are not from Nuevo Reino, but from Cartagena. Nesmith identified the assayer as N or possibly H, which with the discovery of the sixth coin illustrated here clearly shows it to be H. The denomination, a roman numeral I, is located above the H to the right of the shield, as is true for all four pieces in the hoard. Nesmith located a fifth specimen in the collection of the American Numismatic Society, of the same design, but with the roman numeral I located beneath the H, instead of above the H.

Who was this assayer H? Assayer H is unknown on any Santa Fe or Cartagena coin other than on this issue. We are indebted to Pérez Sindreu⁴ for his archival research on the early Colombian mints and their founder, Alonso Turillo de Yebra. The information he published on (page 147) records that Captain Turillo returned to Nuevo Reino (Colombia) from Madrid in the year 1625. Among the officials traveling with Turillo was a certain "Juan de la Hera, ensayador, vecino de Valladolid, y la esposa de éste, Maria Pérez, así como un hijo de ambos llamado Gregorio." In English "Juan de la Hera, assayer, a resident of Valladolid, along with his wife Maria Perez and their son Gregorio." To date, this is all we know about assayer H, but it is a lot. From this we can infer that, since he was not a resident of Nuevo Reino, this was his first engagement at the Colombian mints, and therefore we should not expect to find Colombian coins of this assayer made before 1625.

Even though the date is included in the design of these coins, it does not show on the coins due to the small diameter of the planchets, which is common with cob coins and prevalent on Colombian cobs of the Habsburg shield design.

¹ Lázaro, Jose Luis 1996. *Reales de a Ocho, Los REDONDOS de Lima, Méjico y Potosí y otras acuñaciones especiales*. Madrid: Dayton S.A. (Lazaro illustrates two coins of Mexcio with the Portuguese shield superimposed in the center of the Habsburg shield. Lazaro assigns them No. 46 for the 1639 date and No. 47 for the 1642 date. The same 1642 dated coin is also illustrated in Yriarte 1965 edition as coin No. 520).

² Nesmith, R.I. 1958. "A Hoard of the First Silver Coins of Nuevo Reino de Granada (Colombia)," *The Centennial Publication of The American Numismatic Society*. New York: American Numismatic Society. (Article on pp. 513-530, the 5 coins are: 4l, 4m, 4n, 4o and ANS).

³ Friede, Juan. 1963. *Documentos Sobre la Fundación de la Casa de Moneda en Santa Fé de Bogotá (1614-1635) Conservados en el Archivo General de Indias, Sevilla, Transcritos y Anotados*. Bogotá: Publicaciones del Banco de la Republica.

⁴ Pérez Sindreu, Francisco de Paula. 1995. "Alonso Turillo de Yebra. Fundador y primer Tesorero de las Casas de Moneda de Cartagena y Santa Fe, en el Nuevo Reino de Granada. Primeras labores (1620-1634)." *Acta Numismàtica* ~ 25. Barcelona: Societat Catalana D'Estudis Numismàtics, Institut D'Estudis Catalans. (Article on pages 143-56).

Vietnam 10-Lang Bars
Scott Semans NI #LM102
Scott Semans: <http://www.coincoin.com>

Resembling a Hang, or small trough for feeding animals, the long, bowed, rectangular bars called *nén bac* are a distinctly Vietnamese type of semi-official sycee, which was later produced outside Vietnam as well for use in the opium trade. Today most specimens come to the West via Thailand where they are called *Ngern Rong*.

They were made from the early 1800s reportedly through World War II. Cast mainly from Spanish American 8 Reales, Indian Rupees, and French Indochina Piastres they assay consistently 0.991 fine. Weights generally range from 370 to 380 grams with a likely standard of 380. Size is typically 110×31×14 mm except the early class which is longer and thinner.

They were made by bankers (silver merchants); when presented to government officials for testing, a fee was paid and *Thap* (10) *Lang* and three other "verification stamps" were added. Bars later presented in payment of a standard 10 Lang tax were stamped on obverse (concave side) with three panels of two characters each, giving the reign title, sexagenary date, and province respectively, with a fourth *Noi Te* if paid at the Capital. Bars with these "royal stamps" are scarce. Treasury officials would also test scrap brought to them, and cast bars bearing the three royal stamps and the official assayer's name at the lower left side, but without the four verification stamps. Such bars are rare because the officials charged more for their services than the silver merchants. At some point this system broke down and to meet the continuing demand for convenient, stackable ingots, silver merchants in Thailand, Hong Kong, and possibly Burma and China produced a slightly different, late version. Along with the Fu and stag-head Tael coins, these may have been used primarily in the opium trade.

Excepting rare pieces which did not pass through official hands, the inscriptions follow a consistent pattern of four verification marks and an assayer stamp. The reverse (convex) side shows a hand-etched *thập* (ten) with numerous short strokes below representing a crude *Lang* (Tael, Ounce) at the top of the bar. Though lacking on pieces made 1812-32, according to Thierry, three additional verification stamps were applied in relief. At the top left side (generally) is *Công giáp* (proper fineness), or sometimes just *giáp*. At the top right side (generally) is *trung bìn*, a type of scale. The top or bottom end bears a two-character verification stamp, either *Thức khán*, (true, certified) during Minh Mang and Thieu Tri, or *Khán khán*, (examine examine) during Tu Duc, providing a rough means of dating. Reportedly pieces with *Thủ thủ* (head) instead distinguish a piece made outside Vietnam. Finally, a fifth stamp, the assayer's name, was added in a large panel on the lower left side. Additional stamps such as Chinese characters, symbols, a rooster, etc., often found at the bottom or middle of either side are guaranty marks of silver merchants. On the Class III bars, vertical panels of Chinese characters name the issuing bank or merchant. Some specimens have two deeply struck obverse panels closely resembling 1-Lang bars, the top being the reign title, the bottom *Tinh Ngân Thập Liang*, a phrase properly used 1859-60 only (Thierry 1988). These were applied ca. 1900 to facilitate acceptance in

the opium trade. False royal stamps are sometimes found, possibly for the same purpose, or to enhance collector's value.



十 *thập, ten*

公甲 *Công giáp*

中平 *trung bín*

看魯 *Khán thüc*

看看 *Khán Khán*

首首 *Thü thü*

The earliest issues (Class I) were thin and flat with slightly raised obverse edges, a length around 115-117 mm, and *Thap Liang* neatly etched. See Schroeder #171-172 and Thierry (1986) #115-116. Dateable published specimens are all during Minh Mang's reign (1820-41). Gold 10 Lang and thicker 40 Lang bars of this class are published. Also during Minh Mang, with specimens known for Thieu Tri, Tu Duc, and Dong Khanh, curved, slightly shorter pieces with sharply raised edges (Class II) were made. The *Thap Liang* is much cruder and *Khán khăn* is added to the bottom end. This class may show guaranty stamps but no makers' names. Half-weight (170-177g) 5 Tael bars exist, though one expert believes they are not of Vietnamese origin. Class III pieces probably started around the turn of the century. Distinctly neater in appearance, the surface is smooth without craters or swellings and the angles are sharp, not rounded. The *Khán khăn* inscription is now at the top end; the standard side inscriptions *Trung bình* (now a single panel) and *Công giáp* are much neater and consistent from piece to piece.

Thanks to Huu Van Nguyen, former coin expert at the Saigon Museum, for much of the information used in this article.

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Personalities on Coins of Africa and Asia Egypt's Beram El Tunki Howard Ford NI #LM90

Beram El Tunki, whose portrait appears on an Egyptian 5 Pounds 1993, was a famous poet and songwriter. He wrote the words for some of the songs of Om Kalsoum, the most famous of Egypt's female vocalists and the subject of another of our recent short essays on famous people on the coins of Africa and Asia (January 2006 NI Bulletin Volume 41, Number1, p.12) .



Egypt 5 Pound 1993 KM759

NI

Barter

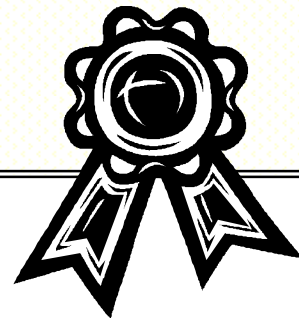
Roger Dewardt Lane NI #815

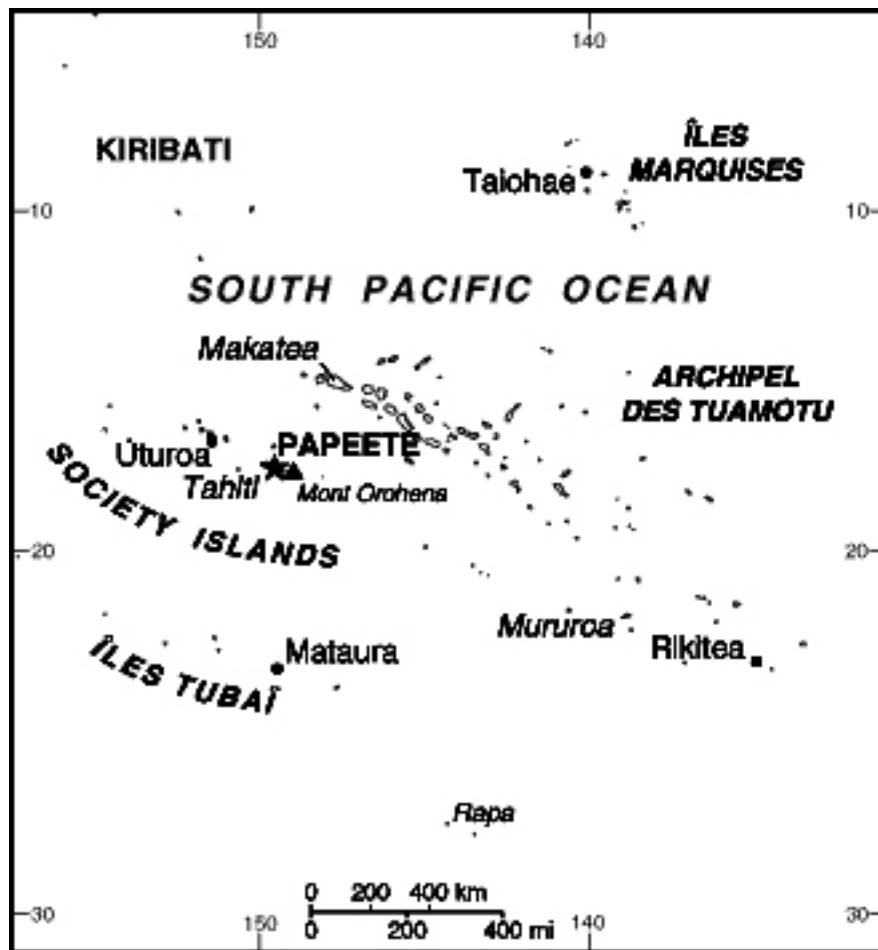
"Some years since, Mademoiselle Zelig, a singer of the Theatre Lyrique at Paris, made a professional tour round the world, and gave a concert in the Society Islands. In exchange for an air from *Norma* and few other songs, she was to receive a third part of the receipts. When counted, her share was found to consist of three pigs, twenty-three turkeys, forty-four chickens, and five thousand cocoa-nuts, besides considerable quantities of bananas, lemons, and oranges. At the Halle in Paris, as the prima donna remarks in her lively letter, printed by M. Wolowski, this amount of live stock and vegetables might have brought four thousand francs, which would have been good remuneration for five songs. In the Society Islands, however, pieces of money were very scarce; and as Mademoiselle could not consume any considerable portion of the receipts herself, it became necessary in the mean time to feed the pigs and poultry with the fruit.

When Mr. Wallace was traveling in the Malay Archipelago, he seems to have suffered rather from the scarcity than the superabundance of provisions. In his most interesting account of his travels, he tells us that in some of the islands, where there was no proper currency, he could not procure supplies for dinner without a special bargain and much chaffering upon each occasion. If the vendor of fish or other coveted eatables did not meet with the sort of exchange desired, he would pass on, and Mr. Wallace and his party had to go without their dinner. It therefore became very desirable to keep on hand a supply of articles, such as knives, pieces of cloth, arrack, or sago cakes, to multiply the chance that one or other article would suit the itinerant merchant." The above excerpt from *Money and the Mechanism of Exchange* by W. Stanley Jevons, 1876 pp 1-2.

Do you have a short article for the NI Bulletin? Do you know the special significance of a particular coin design? Do you know the story behind a personality on a particular coin?

The NI article contest includes a short article category of 500 words or less. Why not write a short article and send it to the editor? Four of the articles in this edition of the Bulletin are under 500 words, ranging between 80 and 215 words. You can share your knowledge, be a published author and contend for best article award when you submit your articles.





W. Stanley Jevons, M.A., Born in Liverpool, England, Jevons studied chemistry and botany at University College, London. Because of the bankruptcy of his father's business in 1847, Jevons left school to take up the position of assayer at the Mint in Sydney, Australia. He remained there five years, resuming his studies at University College upon his return to England. He was later appointed to the post of chair in political economy at his alma mater and retired from there in 1880. Two years later, with a number of unfinished books in process, Jevons drowned while swimming. He was forty-six.

Stanley Jevons was born in Liverpool on September 1, 1835, the ninth child of a family of prosperous iron merchants. However, the death of his mother in 1845 and the collapse of the family firm in 1848 circumscribed Jevons' opportunities. His early education was acquired at home, the Liverpool Mechanics Institute and finally at a preparatory school in London.

As a Unitarian (a liberal non-conformist Protestant sect), Jevons was legally barred from taking the traditional educational route through Oxford, Cambridge, etc. So, in 1852, Jevons entered University College London, a Benthamite institution that accepted non-conformists, to study chemistry, mathematics and logic. It was here that he came under the influence of the logician Augustus De Morgan. However, financial circumstances forced him to withdraw in his second year and accept a post as Assayer at the new Royal Mint in Sydney, Australia.

After arriving in Sydney in 1854, Jevons spent his spare time (and there was plenty of it) studying the climate, geography, geology and flora of Australia. He took daily meteorological observations and hobnobbed with the local scientific community.

After his father's death in 1855 and a bit of soul-searching, Jevons returned to London in 1859 and earned his B.A. in 1860. His M.A. in Logic, Philosophy and Political Economy was acquired in 1862.

Jevons spent a few years working as a tutor and part-time lecturer at Owens College in Manchester and Queen's College in Liverpool. He wrote several books, including a series of insightful and popular papers on currency and coinage.

In 1866, Jevons was appointed Professor of Logic and Philosophy at Owens College and he married Harriet Ann Taylor the daughter of a newspaper baron, the founder of the *Manchester Guardian*.

In 1872, Jevons was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, and in 1876 was appointed Professor of Political Economy at University College London. His book *Money And The Mechanism Of Exchange* was published in 1876, and is widely quoted today on the subject of barter.

Disliking lecturing and plagued by ill health, he retired in 1880. Against his doctor's warnings, Jevons continued swimming regularly, his favorite recreational activity. In 1882, he drowned at sea off the coast of Devon.

Edited and submitted with additional data from the Internet, by Roger deWardt Lane, Hollywood, Florida. Jevons's book *Money and the Mechanism of Exchange*, has been in his Numismatic Library for many years and is now being donated to Frank Campbell, Librarian of the American Numismatic Society, New York.

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NI Educational Programs

ANA World's Fair of Money at the Colorado Convention Center at 700 14th Street, Denver, CO 80202, August 16, 17, 18 & 19, 2006.

The International Bank Note Society (IBNS) and the Numismatic Bibliomania Society (NBS) will share a club table with Numismatics International. NI will hold a general and educational meeting at 12 Noon in the convention center. All members, non-members and friends are invited to visit the club table and use it as their base for the convention. Anyone who would like to volunteer to sit at the table, please contact Howard at HADANIEL3@MSN.Com.

Howard will be moderator for the NI meeting with requested starting time of noon. All members, non-members and friends are also invited to the meeting. If anyone would like to speak on an appropriate subject for about 15-20 minutes and answer questions for about 10-15 minutes, please contact Howard. If no one volunteers to speak, Howard will fill in as usual. Howard will also have a "show and tell" time where everyone will be invited to introduce themselves and speak for a couple of minutes about a coin, note, reference, etc., of interest to them and show it to the attendees.

Coins, notes, MPC, AMC, scrip, tokens, references, etc., are always needed to pass out to the young and new collectors coming to the club table. If anyone wants to donate some of these items, please contact Howard. All donations will be recognized with a donation thank-you letter that can be used to document a tax deduction.



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VIET NAM WANTED. 1 Dong Gold (yes, GOLD) (not the issued aluminum) 1976 dated coin. It is only reported in the Schon catalogs as B4. It is a non-circulating legal tender collector coin sold in a box and/or a plastic capsule. I would like to purchase this coin, to include the box and/or capsule, and any paperwork with it too. If you do not have this coin for sale or trade, I would like to know of each piece in a collection or dealers' stocks. Please contact me, Howard A. Daniel III, at HADANIEL3@MSN.COM or at P.O. Box 989, Deltaville, VA 23043-0989 USA.

Albert L. Gammon, P.O. Box 1343, Sun City, AZ 85372: Want to buy Comoros Is. KM14 25fr 1981, this date only, Caledonia 20fr 1990, 1997, 50fr 1991, 2000 and 2003. Write prices alg1342@netscape.com.

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